Judge Forbids Discussion of JFK Plot Trial

NEW ORLEANS, April 3 (UPI)—District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. today banned all persons officially connected with the assassination conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw from talking about the case.

Shaw, former managing director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday on charges of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy in 1963.

Haggerty said he was issuing the orders to assure Shaw of a fair trial and to curb "the unchallenged chatter that hits the print and radio and television media between the time of arrest and the time of trial."

Haggerty said the whole system of court procedure "is subverted when the press, radio and television media fills jurors' heads and inadmissible evidence.

"I, therefore, am ordering all attorneys, police investigators, witnesses and any public employe officially connected with the procedures of this court in the forthcoming trial of Clay L. Shaw, not to discuss the guilt or innocence of the defendant, nor to make any statements concerning any evidence either for or against him."

Garrison's investigation seemed to marking time today pending the return of three figures mentioned in the probe:

- Gordon Novel, a former New Orleans lounge operator sought as a material witness in the assassination probe and for conspiracy to steal munitions in 1961. He has been arrested in Columbus, Ohio, and remained in jail in lieu of $10,000 bond.

(Novel showed up before Municipal Judge Wilbur Shull without a lawyer today and began arguing his own case for a low bond, Associated Press said.

("I used to do work for Garrison, in fact, I did some of the investigating in this so-called plot. I've got a lot of charges of my own to make about him," Novel said.

(Shull interrupted before Novel could say any more. It was the first indication Novel might have been part of the Garrison investigation.

(Later, Novel said he had heard it said he planned to return to New Orleans voluntarily but, "I did not intend to do that because of this Cuban . . ." This time his lawyer, Jerry Weiner, interrupted and silenced Novel. Weiner appeared in the courtroom while Novel was talking.)

- Sergio Arcacha Smith, a former New Orleans Cuban exile leader who was arrested in Dallas today on a warrant by Garrison in connection with the munitions burglary. Garrison's warrant says Smith, Novel and the late David W. Ferrie conspired to steal the munitions.

- Mrs. Harold McMaines, a former New Orleanian who now lives in Omaha, Neb., who is wanted for questioning in regard to a party in Ferrie's apartment the night that Ferrie, Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly plotted Mr. Kennedy's assassination. She is awaiting an extradition hearing in Nebraska.